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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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In the Matter of )  
 )  
Advanced Television Systems )  
and Their Impact upon the ) MM Docket No. 87-268  
Existing Television Broadcast )  
Service )  
 )

To: The Commission

**OPPOSITION TO SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Cosmos Broadcasting Corporation ("Cosmos"), licensee of television station KAIT(TV), NTSC Channel 8, Jonesboro, Arkansas, by its attorneys, and pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.429(f), hereby opposes the Supplement to Petition for Reconsideration ("Supplement") of the *Sixth Report and Order* in MM Docket No. 87-268, FCC 97-115 (released April 21, 1997) ("*Sixth R&O*"), filed August 22, 1997, by the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television ("MAET"). MAET proposes a change to the DTV Table of Allotments with respect to WMAE-TV, Booneville, Mississippi. Cosmos supports the Commission's efforts to implement digital television ("DTV") and bring this new service to the American public as quickly as possible. Consistent with this, Cosmos believes that broadcasters can and should identify instances in the Commission's DTV Table of Allotments where improvements can be made. Such requests, however, must not result in new interference to other parties — especially to long-standing NTSC viewers. Accordingly, Cosmos opposes the specific proposal found in MAET's supplement to reassign DTV Channel 8 to WMAE-TV.

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WMAE-TV was assigned DTV Channel 55 in the *Sixth R&O* and MAET requests that WMAE-TV's DTV channel be reassigned due to concerns of high operation costs and that the channel is outside of the Commission's "core spectrum." In the Supplement, MAET proposes that the Commission instead reallocate DTV Channel 8 to WMAE-TV. Cosmos does not oppose the efforts of WMAE-TV to remedy these circumstances where MAET seeks an alternate available channel which meets the Commission's standard of causing "no new interference." MAET's proposal, however, does not meet this standard.

MAET's proposal to relocate to DTV Channel 8 would create new interference to Cosmos station KAIT(TV), Jonesboro, Arkansas, whose existing NTSC operations are on Channel 8. As shown in the technical exhibit ("Attachment A"), MAET's proposal would result in predicted interference and short spacing to KAIT(TV). MAET admits in its supplement that the proposed reassignment would create additional interference to KAIT(TV) and three other broadcasters. MAET cannot meet the Commission's required standard for modification to the DTV Table.

Moreover, MAET's support for its proposed reassignment to Channel 8 is inadequate. MAET offers no evidence of technical solutions that might eliminate the predicted interference. MAET concludes that KAIT(TV) would only be minimally affected, but offers no factual analysis of affected population percentages or coverage areas. In the Supplement, MAET states that the predicted interference is in "areas where these stations do not provide service."<sup>1/</sup> This is, in fact, not accurate. As shown in the technical exhibit, approximately

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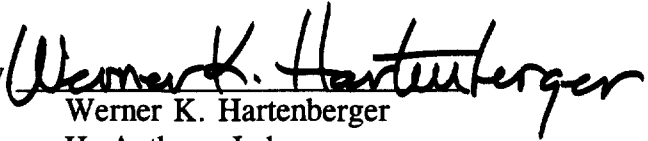
<sup>1/</sup> MAET Supplement to Petition for Reconsideration, filed Aug. 22, 1997, at 2.

2.1 percent of the population in KAIT(TV)'s service area would be affected by the interference.

If MAET desires to improve its DTV allotment, it should provide a well-supported request for a DTV channel that would result in no new interference to fellow broadcasters. This it has not done. MAET's request does not meet the Commission's standards and its support is flawed and insufficient. For the foregoing reasons, Cosmos requests that the Commission reject MAET's request for the reassignment of Channel 8 as the DTV allotment for WMAE-TV in Booneville, Mississippi.

Respectfully submitted,

COSMOS BROADCASTING CORPORATION

By   
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Dated: September 23, 1997

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Technical Exhibit**

***du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc.***

A Subsidiary of A.D. Ring, P.A.

TECHNICAL STATEMENT  
REPLY TO SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION  
KAIT-TV JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

This technical statement is prepared on behalf of television station KAIT-TV on Channel 8 at Jonesboro, Arkansas. It is noted that the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television ("MAET") is proposing an alternate DTV channel for station WMAE-TV at Booneville, Mississippi. WMAE-TV is presently authorized channel 55 for DTV operation according to the Commission's Order.<sup>1</sup> In MAET's Supplement to Petition for Reconsideration, Channel 8 rather than Channel 55 is proposed for DTV operation. This channel substitution will have an interference impact upon KAIT-TV at Jonesboro.

According to the Commission's Order, the required minimum separation distance between a co-channel VHF DTV facility and NTSC facility in Zone II is 273.6 kilometers. The actual separation distance between the proposed Booneville Channel 8 DTV facility and co-channel KAIT-TV is only 240.6 kilometers. This is a short-spacing of 33 kilometers.

Within the Engineering Statement prepared by Keith G. Blanton of Kessler and Gehman Associates, Inc., it was stated that the interference caused from the proposed Booneville DTV facility on Channel 8 occurs "in areas where that station does not provide service." In reviewing the signal propagation maps submitted by MAET within the Engineering Exhibit, it can be seen in Figure 2 that areas

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<sup>1</sup> See Federal Communications Commission Order in MM Docket No. 87-268, adopted July 2, 1997, released July 2, 1997

***du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc.***

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of interference to KAIT-TV from the proposed Channel 8 DTV facility are located within the KAIT-TV Grade B coverage contour.<sup>2</sup> Figure 3 shows by cross-hatching where coverage is predicted to KAIT-TV using the Lonely-Rice propagation model. By comparing Figures 2 and 3, it can be seen that many of these same areas within the Grade B coverage contour where interference to KAIT-TV is predicted, service from KAIT-TV is also predicted. Therefore, the proposed Booneville DTV Channel 8 will indeed have an interference impact upon KAIT-TV based on the information provided by MAET.

It is further noted that MAET did not provide the population and area caused by the proposed Booneville DTV Channel 8 to KAIT-TV. Therefore, using the procedure outlined in OET Bulletin 69, KAIT-TV has calculated the Booneville Channel 8 will cause interference to approximately 13,400 persons over an area of 84 square kilometers.<sup>3</sup> According to the Commission's Order, KAIT-TV provides service to 630,000 persons over an area of 36,658 square kilometers. Therefore, the interference area represents 2.1 percent of the KAIT-TV population and 0.2 percent of the KAIT-TV service area.



Charles A. Cooper

September 22, 1997

<sup>2</sup> As the circle is not identified on Figure 2, it is assumed to be the KAIT-TV Grade B coverage contour.

<sup>3</sup> The DTV Channel 8 facilities proposed by WMAE-TV were employed for the calculations. This assumes a maximum effective radiated power of 3.16 kilowatts using the same radiation pattern as the existing NTSC facility and an antenna radiation center of 386 meters at the licensed WMAE-TV transmitter site.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Opposition of Cosmos Broadcasting Corporation was sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 23rd day of September, 1997, to each of the following:

Robert A. Woods, Esq.  
Schwartz, Woods & Miller  
1350 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036

*Counsel for Mississippi Authority for Educational Television*

  
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Connie Wright Zink